



OHMVR COMMISSION MEETING Victorville, CA 92392

May 2, 2014

STAFF REPORT: BLM Clear Creek Management Area

STAFF: Dan Canfield, Planning Manager

SUBJECT: BLM Clear Creek Management Area
Resource Management Plan Record of Decision

Summary

On February 12, 2014, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Hollister Field Office published the Clear Creek Management Area (CCMA) Resource Management Plan (RMP) Record of Decision (ROD).

The CCMA RMP ROD eliminates Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Recreation from the 30,000 acre Serpentine Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) within the CCMA. Highway licensed vehicles will be allowed in the Serpentine ACEC with travel restricted to a designated vehicle touring route. Public access to the Serpentine ACEC is allowed by permit only with vehicle touring limited to five days per year and pedestrian access limited to twelve days per year. The ROD does provide limited OHV recreation opportunities for ATVs and ROVs in portions of the CCMA outside the Serpentine ACEC.

At the February 28, 2014, OHMVR Commission meeting, the Commission voted unanimously to submit a letter to the BLM appealing the CCMA RMP ROD. On March 13, 2014, the Commission appeal letter was submitted to the BLM (see Attachment 1).

On April 3, 2014, an OHMVR Commission Committee (Pérez and Cabral) visited the CCMA and toured the Serpentine ACEC as well as the portions of CCMA outside the Serpentine ACEC.

Discussion

The CCMA was a popular OHV recreation area administered by the Hollister Field Office of the BLM. Located in the Diablo Mountains of Central California, the CCMA spans parts of southern San Benito County and western Fresno County. The CCMA is comprised of approximately 75,600 acres. In 1984, the BLM designated approximately

30,000 acres within the CCMA as the Serpentine ACEC. The majority of CCMA OHV routes lie within the Serpentine ACEC.

In May 2008, the BLM temporarily closed the CCMA based on health concerns related to naturally occurring asbestos (NOA) identified in a 2008 study conducted by the Region 9 office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA Region 9). The EPA Region 9 findings were presented in a May 2008 risk assessment study entitled, "Clear Creek Management Area Asbestos Exposure and Human Health Risk Assessment." The EPA Region 9 study stated that the NOA inhalation health risks to individuals participating in various recreational activities, including OHV recreation, were "of concern." The February 2014 CCMA RMP ROD reopened the Serpentine ACEC to limited public access but excludes OHV recreation from the Serpentine ACEC.

Commission Action

For information only

Attachments

Attachment 1: OHMVR Commission Appeal Letter